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OT 752 Biblical Archaeology

Sandra Richter

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OT 752

Biblical Archaeology

Asbury Theological Seminary

Fall 2005

W-F 2:30-3:45 pm

Instructor:

Dr. Sandy Richter
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SPO 1320
Office: BC 317, 858-2032

Office Hours:

TBA

Course Description:

Within this century, Biblical Archaeology has proven itself a discipline essential to the serious study of the Old Testament. In many instances, this particular discipline has served to clarify difficult passages, fill in correlative sociological and historical details, and, generally, shed important light on the intent of the biblical narrative. Moreover, archaeology has helped to correct minimalist viewpoints regarding the historical integrity of the text. Recognizing the imperative nature of this still-young discipline, this class seeks to (1) expose students to the archaeological periods of ancient Syria-Palestine; (2) expose students to the major archaeological and epigraphic discoveries of the biblical world; and (3) train students in a sound method of integrating biblical and archaeological data.

Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, the successful student will have gained the following:

- 1) An enhanced knowledge of the history, sociology, and geography of the peoples of the biblical world.
- 2) An introductory understanding of the goals and methods of archaeology in the land of the Bible.
- 3) The ability to interact with scholarship demonstrating the intersection of archaeology and the Bible.
- 4) A growing ability to distill from the remains of material culture *meaning* significant to the interpretation of the Old Testament.

Course requirements:

Method of Instruction:

Slide-presentations, lecture, and class discussion of materials read will dominate the first two-thirds of this class. Students will be responsible to *thoroughly* prepare for and participate in these class meetings. The last third of this class will consist primarily of student presentations on various topics critical to the discipline of biblical archaeology.

Required Textbooks:

Currid, John D. *Doing Archaeology in the Land of the Bible: A Basic Guide*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Books, 2000.

Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000-586 BCE*. The Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1990.

The HarpersCollins Concise Atlas of the Bible, ed. James B. Pritchard. HarperSanFrancisco, 1997.

The Ancient Near East, vol. 1, ed. James B. Pritchard. Princeton University Press, 1958 OR Arnold, B. and Beyer, B. *Readings from the ANE*. Grand Rapids: Baker.

Peoples of the Old Testament World, Alfred J. Hoerth, Gerald L. Mattingly, Edwin Yamauchi eds. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.

Recommended Textbooks:

Borowski, Oded. *Daily Life in Ancient Israel*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.

Dever, Wm. G. *What Did the Biblical Writers Know & When Did They Know It?* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001.

Anne Killebrew, *Biblical Peoples and Ethnicity*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2005.

King, Philip and Lawrence Stager, *Life in Biblical Israel*. Library of Ancient Israel. Westminster: John Knox Press, 2001.

Redford, Donald B. *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton University Press, 1992.

Stern, Ephraim. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible*, vol. 2. The Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 2001.

Roland de Vaux, *Ancient Israel Its Life and Institutions in the Biblical Resource Series*. Grand Rapids: Wm B Eerdmans/Livonia: Dove Book Sellers, 1997.

Journal abbreviations and where to find them:

BAR *Biblical Archaeology Review* may be found in the library's Biblical Archaeology Society (BAS) Archive

BR(ev) *Bible Review* in the BAS archive

BASOR *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* in the bound periodicals

BA *Biblical Archaeologist* in ATLA

CT *Christianity Today* in EBSCO

JBL *Journal of Biblical Literature* in EBSCO

***articles written after 2003 will typically only be available in the bound archives**

Class Expectations:

20% Class Participation. As this is a seminar class, students must come to class prepared to discuss (intelligently!) the topic of the day. Periodically specific discussion/brief presentation topics will be assigned for the following class meeting.

40% Quizzes. Four quizzes will be given on a range of topics central to class content.

40% In-class Student Presentations. Each student will be responsible for a class presentation in which they will teach the class for 45 minutes on his/her assigned topic. A visual presentation, a lecture outline, an appropriate reading assignment for the class, and pertinent handouts (map/chart/site survey/etc.) must augment the lecture. Each presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. The student will be provided with an "essential" bibliographic list for his/her topic, but will be expected to go beyond this list in her/his collection of data and visual material. Students will be evaluated by their peers and by the professor.

**** Attendance** is essential to a seminar class, and, therefore, it will be recorded. The equivalent of one week's absence will be waived; following absences will *significantly* affect the student's final evaluation.

Class Schedule

(student presentations may cause some alteration to this schedule):

February 13: What Biblical Archaeology is and What Can It Contribute to Biblical Studies?

Hershel Shanks, "Is this Man A Biblical Archaeologist? Part I" *BAR* 22/4

(July/August 1996): 30-39, 62-63

Hershel Shanks, "Is the Bible Right After All? Part II" *BAR* 22/5 (February/October 1996): 30-37, 74-77

Recommended:

Wm. Dever, *What Did the Biblical Writers Know & When Did They Know It?*, "What Archaeology Is and What It Can Contribute to Biblical Studies," 53-95; "The Current School of Revisionists," 23-52

The Bible in Real Time & Space

Atlas, pp. 36-37, 132-135, 138

A. Mazar, *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible*, pp. 1-10

February 20: The Peoples of the Old Testament World

A.J. Hoerth, *The Peoples of the Old Testament World*, select from this book your people group; "read" entire book with the end goal that you can define the locale, era, and major characteristics of each people group discussed in the text and give 5-7 minute report on your people group.

**"Canaanite" report must come from Killebrew's *Biblical Peoples and Ethnicity*, 93-138

The Structure of Society in the Old Testament World

Roland de Vaux, *Ancient Israel its Life & Institutions*, pp. 3-61, "Nomadism & Family Institutions"

L. Stager, "The Archaeology of the Family in Ancient Israel" *BAJOR* 260 (85):1-35.

Atlas, 58-59

Recommended: P. King & L. Stager, *Life in Biblical Israel*, 1-68, 363-80; Mazar 531-543 "Israel's Neighbors."

February 27: The Basics of Excavation

Currid, pp. 1-118

Mazar, pp. 10-38

March 5: Epigraphy

map & people quiz 10%

General: Atlas, 60-61; 80-83; Mazar, pp. 514-520; *ANET*, figures 63-82

Siloam Tunnel Inscription: Rogerson & Davies, "Was the Siloam Tunnel Built by Hezekiah?"

BA 59 (S 1996): 138-149; Hackett *et al* "Defusing Psuedo-Scholarship: The Siloam Inscription Ain't Hasmonean" *BAR* 23 (March/April 1997): 41-50, 68

Dan Stele: "David Found at Dan" *BAR* 20/2 (March/April 1994): 26-39; Philip Davies, "House of David' Built on Sand," 54-55; Anson Rainey, "House of David' and the House of the Reconstructionists," *BAR* 20/6 (November /December 1994) 47.

March 12: The Neolithic Revolution & the Chalcolithic Age

Atlas, pp. 10-13

Mazar, 35-90

Recommended: D. Redford, *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*, "Introduction," "Villages, Camps, and the Rise of a Colossus," pp. xxi-xxiii, 3-28.

The Early Bronze Age

Mazar, pp. 91-144

"Arad," *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*, pp. 75-87 *reference*

Recommended: D. Redford, *Egypt, Canaan, and Israel in Ancient Times*, "Upper & Lower Egypt," 29-55.

March 19: The Middle Bronze Age & the Exodus

take home quiz on the EB due 10%

Genesis 12- Exodus 1

Atlas, pp. 14-21, 34

Mazar, pp. "An Interlude" and "The Mighty Canaanite City States," 151-227

Dan Fleming, "Genesis in History and Tradition: The Syrian Background of Israel's Ancestors, Reprise" (Jim Hoffmeier and Alan Millard, eds. *The Future of Biblical Archaeology* Symposium, Trinity Seminary, 2001 [46 pages]).

ANET, pp. 5-12, "The Story of Sinuhe"; pp. 173-175, "The Expulsion of the Hyksos"

J. Hoffmeier, "Egypt, Plagues in" *ABD* 2:374-78

Kevin D. Miller, "Did the Exodus Never Happen?" *Christianity Today* 42/10 [Sept 98]: 44-51

Recommended: Redford, *Egypt, Canaan, etc.* "Lo, the Vile Asiatic!", "Trampling the Foreign Lands," "The Hyksos in Egypt," pp. 56-122

****Exodus Presentation: Student Presentation***

March 26: The Late Bronze Age & the Conquest and Settlement

take-home quiz on the MB due 10%

Mazar, pp. 232-291

Atlas, pp. 20-35

ANET, pp. 16-23, "The Journey of Wen-Amon to Phoenicia"; pp. 12-16, "The Story of Two Brothers"

Joshua-Judges

Wm. Dever, "Archaeology of the Israelite Conquest" *ABD* III:545-558 *reference*

Recommended: Dever, *What & When* "Getting at the 'History behind the History': What Convergences between Texts and Artifacts Tell Us about Israelite Origins and the Rise of the State," pp. 97-158, **125**.

****The Jericho Debate: Student Presentation***

Reading Week March 31-April 4

April 9: The Iron I Age & Mt. Ebal

Mazar, 295-363 "The Days of the Judges"; 463-491 "General Aspects Israelite Material Culture"

Atlas, pp. 42-54

Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, "Israelite Ethnicity in Iron I," *JBL* 122/3(2003): 401-425.

ANET, p. 209, "The Gezer Calendar"

Deuteronomy 11, 27; Joshua 8

Ebal: Adam Zertal, "Has Joshua's Altar Been Found on Mt. Ebal?" 26-43; A. Kempinski's "Joshua's Altar—An Iron Age I Watchtower," *BAR* 12/1(1986):42-53; Zertal, "How Can Kempinski Be So Wrong!" *BAR* 12/1(Ja-Feb 1986): 52.
S. Richter, "The Place of the Name in Deuteronomy," *Vetus Testamentum* 57 (2007)

Recommended: Zertal, "'To the Land of the Perizzites and the Giants': On the Israelite Settlement in the Hill Country of Manasseh," in *From Nomadism to Monarchy: Archaeological & Historical Aspects of Early Israel* (eds. Israel Finkelstein and Nadav Na'aman; Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1994), 47-69; Zertal, "Ebal," *NEAEHL* 1:375-77 *reference.*; L. Stager, "When Canaanites and Philistines Ruled Ashkelon," *BAR* Mar/Apr 1991: 24-43.

****The Archaeology of Israelite Settlement: Student Presentation***

****Settlement of Edom, Ammon, and Moab: Student Presentation***

April 16: The Iron II Age & Hezekiah's Crisis

take home quiz on LB/Iron I due 10%

2 Samuel 5-1 Kings 11:41

Mazar, pp. 368-398 "The United Monarchy"; 492-501 "Israelite Cult"; 502-514 "Art"; 430-60 "The Divided Monarchy"

Atlas, pp. 62-83

ANET, pp. 209-214 "The Moabite Stone," "Ostraca of Samaria"

Hezekiah:

2 Kings 18-19 (Hezekiah); Isaiah 36-39; 2 Chron 32

Dever, *What & When*, 159-244 "Daily Life in Israel in the time of the Divided Monarchy" (long but thorough and engaging)

ANET pp. 212-14, "Siloam Inscription, "Lachish Ostraca"; pp. 199-201 "Sennacherib"

Dan Gill, "Jerusalem's Underground Water Systems How They Met: Geology Solves Long-Standing Mystery of Hezekiah's Tunnelers" *BAR* 20:04, Jul/Aug 1994

David Ussishkin, "Answers at Lachish," *BAR* 5:06, Nov/Dec 1979

Oded Borowski, "In the Path of Sennacherib," *BAR* 31:03, May/Jun 2005

****The Temple in Levantine Religion: Student Presentation***

Student Presentations: April 23-April 14 (if we need the finals slot, we'll use it)

* Reading assignments will be provided for class members one week prior to each scheduled presentation. Each presentation will be preceded by a brief quiz taken from the assigned reading. The results of this quiz will count toward the student's class participation grade.

*10 slots